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*mondii* Gray, *Arabis canescens* Nutt., *Draba alpina* L., *Smelowskia calycina* C. A. Mey., *Arenaria arctica* Stev., *Ivesia Gordoni* Torr. and Gray, *Potentilla dissecta* Pursh, *Astragalus alpinus* L., *Astragalus Kentrophyta* Gray, *Lupinus minimus* Dougl., *Sedum stenopetalum* Ph., *Townsendia* (not determined as to species. No. 145), *Erigeron compositum* Ph., *Senecio canus* Hook., *Achillea millefolium* L., *Phlox Douglasii* Hook., *Polemonium humile* var. (*P. parvifolium* Nutt.), *Mertensia alpina* Dougl., *Myosotis alpestris* L., *Eriogonum ovalifolium* Nutt.

In a concluding article, the general botanical features of Yellowstone Park and the head waters of Snake and Wind Rivers will be considered.

NOTE.—In order to render the determination of the new species mentioned in this and the preceding paper as complete as possible, and most convenient for reference, the descriptions will be given as an appendix to the concluding article.

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## NOTES UPON AMERICAN WATER BIRDS.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

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THE following are a few points which have been developed by our studies of the water birds in connection with the forthcoming "History of North American Birds," by Professor Baird, Dr. Brewer and the writer. They are published in advance of our work, that ornithologists may thus the sooner have the benefit of them.

In making a comparative study of the North American and European Grallæ, I have been struck by a very curious parallelism between certain congeneric or conspecific forms of the two continents. In many cases, the European analogues differ from their North American representatives chiefly, if not exclusively, in having the rump immaculate white, instead of spotted. The following table will show the extent of this parallelism, so far as I have had occasion to trace it.

*American forms (rump spotted).*

*Rhyacophilus solitarius.*  
*Gambetta flavipes.*  
*Numenius Hudsonicus.*  
*Hæmatopus palliatus.*

*European forms (rump immaculate).*

*R. ochropus.*  
*G. stagnatilis.*  
*N. phæopus.*  
*H. ostralegus.*

*Ægialitis microrhynchus* Ridgway. n. sp. Winter plumage similar to that of *Æ. semipalmatus*, but the cheeks white up to the eye, the white of the forehead less distinctly defined, grading insensibly into the gray posteriorly, and anteriorly reaching to the bill. Two outer tail feathers white, with a blackish transverse spot across the inner web. Much more slender than *Æ. semipalmatus*, and the bill of entirely different form, being short and exceedingly attenuated. Wing, 4.35; tail, 2.50; culmen, .50; depth of bill, .10; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, .65. Type, No. 39,523, Nat. Mus., San Francisco, Cal.; E. F. Lorquin.

*Ægialitis melodus*, var. *circumcinctus* Ridgway. Breeding plumage similar to var. *melodus*, but the black pectoral band complete across the jugulum, instead of being interrupted in the middle portion. Wing, 4.60; tail, 2.30; culmen, .50; tarsus, .85; middle toe, .55. Type, No. 9,035, ♂ ad., Nat. Mus., Loup Fork of the Platte, July 8; Dr. F. V. Hayden. Length,  $6\frac{1}{8}$ ; extent,  $14\frac{1}{4}$ . *Habitat.* Plains between the Missouri River and Rocky Mountains.

The restricted var. *melodus* is found only in the Atlantic States.

*Ægialitis Wilsonius*, var. *rufinucha* Ridgway. Similar in color to var. *Wilsonianus*, but the tints much darker; sub-orbital region dusky, instead of whitish; occiput of the male deeply rufous: frontal white band narrower than the black one behind it. Wing, 4.50; tail, 2.25; culmen, .80; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, .70. Type, No. 30,319, ♂, April, 1863, and 26,853, ♀, Dec. 20, 1861, Spanishtown, Jamaica; W. T. March. *Habitat.* Jamaica.

*Ægialitis cantianus* Lath., var. *nivosus* Cassin. (*Ægialitis cantianus* Coues, Key, p. 245.) This bird is distinguishable from the European form by the lores being destitute of a black stripe, instead of having a quite conspicuous one.

*Ægialitis montanus* Towns. (*Ægialitis Asiaticus* var. *montanus* Coues, Key, p. 245.) This species proves to be very distinct from that of Asia, to which Dr. Coues referred it on the authority of Schlegel. He has since informed us, after examination of specimens in the breeding plumage, that he is satisfied of the specific distinctions, our species having no pectoral black belt.

*Ægialitis hiaticula* Linn., var. *semipalmatus* Bonap. The American bird differs from the European merely in lacking the white post-ocular space in narrower pectoral band, and in its slightly smaller size.

*Gallinago acolopacina* Bonap., var. *Wilsonii* Bonap. The American form of this species is distinguishable from the European merely by slight differences in proportion, being smaller in general measurements, especially in length of bill and tarsus, with comparatively longer wing.

The *G. nobilis* Sel. and Salv., of northern South America, *G. Paraguæ* Vieill., of the southern portion of the same continent, and *G. Australis* Lath. of Australia, seem to be also referrible to the same species, though slightly distinguished by the attenuation of the outer tail feathers, thereby showing an approach to *G. stenura* Kuhl, of the Malayan region, which, however, has twenty-six, instead of fourteen to eighteen rectrices.

*Limosa rufa* Temm., var. *uropygialis* Gould. The differences between this race and that of Europe are very slight. The Alaskan bird is merely paler colored on the lower surface, and has the axillars and rump with dusky prevailing, instead of mostly white.

*Ibis falcinellus* (Linn.). (*Ibis Ordii* Bonap. et Auct.) The glossy Ibis of the West Indies and the eastern United States is absolutely indistinguishable from that of Europe. A close examination of nearly a hundred American specimens, reveals the fact that this continent contains at least one, and probably two, species distinct from the *I. falcinellus* or *I. "Ordii."*

The three species found in America may be distinguished as follows:—

- A. Adult with the head, neck and lower parts chestnut. Young with these parts streaked white and grayish dusky, the metallic reflections of the upper parts with varying lights of purple, violet and green, the lesser wing coverts with a patch of chestnut.
  - a. Head dusky around the base of the bill, which is dull greenish in the adult.  
*Habitat.* Old World, West Indies, and Eastern U. S. 1. *I. falcinellus.*
  - b. Head white all around the base of the bill, which is dusky red in the adult.  
*Habitat.* Whole of tropical America, and middle province of U. S., from Chili and Buenos Ayres to the Columbia river. 2. *I. guarauna.*
- B. Adult with the head and lower parts as in the young of the preceding species; the metallic reflections of the upper parts of a uniform shade of vivid bronzed green; lesser coverts without a chestnut patch. *Habitat.* Pacific coast of America, from California to Chili; western portion of the Great Basin (Humboldt river, Ridgway). 3. *I. thalassinus.*

Other characters of as great importance accompany the above, while their constancy is shown by large series of each species. The chief synonymy of these species stands as follows:—

1. *Tantalus falcinellus* Linn., S. N. I., 241. (*Ibis Ordii* Bonap., List, 1838. Baird, B. N. Am., 1858, p. 685. In part only!)

2. *Scolopax guarauna* Linn., S. N. I., 242. (*Tantalus chalcop-terus* Temm. pl. col. "Ibis *Ordii* Bonap.," Baird, B. N. Am., 1858, p. 685. ??? *Tantalus Mexicanus* Gmel., S. N. I., 1788, 652.)

3. *Ibis guarauna* Baird, B. N. Am., 1858, pl. lxxxvii. Id. Catal. N. Am. B., No. 500a. *Ibis thalassinus* Ridgway, Rep. U. S. Geol. Expl. 40th par. (In press.)

*Rallus elegans*, var. *obsoletus*, Ridgway. Differing from var. *elegans* in being more grayish above, where the stripes are nearly obsolete, and dark brown, instead of deep black on a yellowish olive ground. Rufous of the lower parts paler and duller. Wing, 6·30; tail, 3·50; culmen, 2·25; bill, ·50 deep at base; tarsus, 2·10; middle toe, 2·00. Type, 6,444, San Francisco, Cal., March, 1857; Dr. Suckley. *Habitat.* Coast of California.

*Rallus elegans* var. *tenuirostris* Lawrence. Similar in colors to var. *elegans*, but smaller, and with very much slenderer bill. Wing, 5·90; tail, 3·25; culmen, 2·00; bill, ·35, deep at base; tarsus, 1·80; middle toe, 1·70 (No. 52,849, Valley of Mexico; Col. A. J. Grayson). Type, from city of Mexico, in cabinet of Mr. Lawrence.

*Porzana Jamaicensis*, var. *coturniculus* Baird. Differing from var. *Jamaicensis* of southeastern United States, West Indies and South America, in smaller size, and more uniform colors. Back without white specks. Wing, 2·50; culmen, ·52; bill, ·15 deep at base; tarsus, ·80; middle toe, ·80. Type, No. 12,862 Nat. Mus., Farallone Islands, coast of California; T. G. Martin. *Habitat.* Farallone Islands, California.

*Anas obscura*, var. *fulvigula* Ridgway. Differing from var. *obscura* in lighter and much less uniform colors, and unstreaked deep buff throat. Deep ochraceous borders to the feathers very broad, on the lower surface almost as wide as the dusky medial streaks. Wing, 10·30; tail, 5·00; culmen, 2·05; width of the bill, ·90; tarsus, 1·70; middle toe, 1·90. Bill olive color (olive-yellow in life?); feet, deep orange-red. Type, No. 1,748, Mus. R. Ridgway, St. John's river, Florida. C. J. Maynard. *Habitat.* Florida; permanent resident.

A specimen in the National Museum (No. 61,360) from the St. John's River, collected by Mr. G. A. Boardman, is exactly similar.